information through India tourism offices in India and abroad. Infrastructure Development projects to facilitate tourists to the region have also been taken up with the State Governments for this purpose. A sum of Rs. 505.00 lakhs has been sanctioned during 2002-2003 for the integrated development of Vaishali-Nalanda-Rajgir-Bodhgaya-Varanasi circuit.

Setting up of oceanarium resorts in coastal areas in various States

746. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's first oceanarium is being set up in Kerala as an addition of tourist attraction;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its site, dimension and the cost;

(c) whether work on the project has already been started and if not, by when it is expected to begin;

(d) whether Government would consider setting up more such resorts on the coastal places in Maharashtra, Goa, Orissa, West Bengal etc; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) Government of Kerala has informed that Gulfar Group has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with them on 2nd January, 2003 to set up an Oceanarium in Kerala. The details of the project have not yet been finalised by the State Government.

(d) No such proposal is at present under consideration of the Central Department of Tourism.

(e) Does not arise.

Funds allocated for centrally protected monuments

747. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have identified 753 centrally protected monuments for structural, conservation, chemical preservation

and development under the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the names of the identified monuments; and

(c) the total amount of funds earmarked and allocated so far for such development activities, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) The Archaeological Survey of India had identified over five hundred Centrally protected monuments for structural conservation, chemical preservation and development under the Tenth Five Year Plan.

As there has been almost a 50% increase in the revised estimates, a fresh exercise is under way for allocating the monument-wise requirement of funds for the current as well as for the remaining year of the Plan period.

The requisite information will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of National Tourism Fund

748. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to set up a National Tourism Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Department of Tourism, Government of India took up the issue of setting up of Tourism Development Fund with the Planning Commission. The idea of setting up of Tourism Development Fund has been dropped as it was felt that critical infrastructure development can be made through budgetary support of the Department and a separate fund would not be necessary for this.